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West
Stockbridge
October
2024

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Fall along the Williams River. Photo by Emily Weiland



WEST STOCKBRIDGE HALLOWEEN



Thursday, October 31st

4:30-6:30pm Trick-or-Treat

Please turn on an outside light if you will be receiving revelers.

6:30-7:30pm Halloween Party

Located at the Town Hall gym.
Costume Contest at 6:45pm.

This is a free community event,
sponsored by West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation

Berkshire
Public Health
Alliance



WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL VACCINE CLINICS



**TUESDAY,
OCT. 8**

8:00AM TO 10:00AM

**THURSDAY,
OCT. 17**

4:00PM TO 6:00PM

WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL
21 STATE LINE RD, WEST STOCKBRIDGE

*Nurses will do their best to abide by the registration appointment schedule;
unregistered clients will be vaccinated as time and supplies allow.
Please wear short sleeves.*

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER

by visiting this website:
<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/berkshire?site=west-stockbridge-town-hall>
or by scanning the QR code



West Stockbridge Historical Society Presents

West Stockbridge Jazz Series

A Tribute to Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker

Richard Stanmeyer Quintet

joined by

Omar Valenzuela, Mary Ann McSweeney
and Tobias Israel

Friday, October 25, 2024

at 7:00PM

Tickets: \$20

Old Town Hall, 9 Main St. West Stockbridge



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Select Board Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: At the town administrator's request, the Select Board minutes here are reprinted verbatim with no editing of text. Official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library and on the town website, <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/>. Select Board meetings are on Zoom and may be viewed by clicking on the link in the meeting agenda posted on the town website calendar. Residents can receive email notification of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>].

Select Board Meeting Minutes July 29, 2024

Quorum present: Select Board Members; Andrew Krouss, Chair Andrew Potter, and Town Administrator Marie Ryan. Select Board Member Kathleen Keresey attended via zoom.

Andy Potter opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the minutes from July 1 and July 15, 2024. All were in favor, minutes approved.

Andy Potter stated that the agenda item involving Wiseacre Farm will not be discussed tonight due to illness of one of the parties involved. The Board plans to continue this agenda item at the next Select Board meeting.

Citizen Speak:

Joanna Yurman, Baker Street resident, voiced her concern that she is currently experiencing an odor issue coming from Wiseacre

Farm and would like the process for mitigation to be in place. She urged the Select Board to continue their discussions to mitigate this odor issue.

Gary Quadrozzi, Cross Road resident, reminded the Board that the Wiseacre Farm representatives stated there would be an app set up to report any odor issues however, he has no information how to access this reporting system or if it has even been implanted as promised.

Town Administrator Update- Marie Ryan

Marie informed the Board that the Highway Department has recently received their new pick-up truck which was approved at Town Meeting.

Marie noted that the new hardware for the entrance doors to Town Hall and the Library which allows for handicap access has been installed. The electrical work should be completed this week and the doors should be operational. This installation was made possible by a grant awarded to the Town, thanks to Rachel Alter, Town Librarian.

...continued on page 5

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October History Quiz Question:



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

Most town roads in Berkshire County have practical names based on where they lead (Dalton Avenue) or their direction from the town center (East Street or West Street). Because we don't have an official town center, our major roads are named for their destinations, like Lenox Road or Great Barrington Road, or a significant feature, like Swamp Road or Maple Hill. Some are named for early settlers, like Cobb Road, or hamlets, like West Center Road. One road is even a naming mystery: Moscow Road.

The larger mystery, however, is Albany Road (aka Route 41). How did it get its name, even though it doesn't lead to Albany or even partially in that direction? Albany wasn't the next town, unlike Lenox or Stockbridge, and the road's name ends just past the town line in Richmond.

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

When friends, neighbors, or relatives move, downsize, or just clean house, *please* ask them to think of the West Stockbridge Historical Society before they discard any old books, pictures, postcards, letters, or memorabilia of the Town of West Stockbridge. Email info@weststockbridgehistory.org or call (413) 232-4465.

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...continued from page 3

TurnPark Two 1-day Liquor Licenses- Jared Gelormino, Manager

Jared requested approval for two 1-day liquor licenses for events at TurnPark Art Space. The first event is on August 24th, 2024 from 3 PM- 10 PM and is their Annual Art Festival and the second event will be held on October 5th, 2024 from 12 PM- 6 PM and is a Fairy House Festival, a family fun event.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the two 1-day liquor licenses for TurnPark.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Appointment to Tri-Town Connector- Andy Potter

Andy Potter explained to the Board that William Barth, the Town's appointed representative on the Transportation Board, has not been able to attend any meetings in the past year and Andy suggest the Board appoint a new representative, even if it is an interim appointment. He volunteered to take this appointment to represent the Town.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to appoint Andy Potter as the Town's representative on the Transportation Board.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Vision Committee EV Charging Station Discussion- Joe Roy, Jr.

Joe and few other Vision Committee members met with Nick Valorie, President of East Coast Renewable Energy (ECRE), to discuss a program for level 3 EV Charging Stations. Nick informed the Committee that ECRE in collaboration with National Grid will provide infrastructure, installation, and subsidies for the first 5 years of their program. They offer a non-binding contract with ECRE. The Town will pay for the electricity cost, cloud software (estimate of \$1000/year per charger) after 5 years, service maintenance after the first year (Estimate \$1200/year), and insurance. Nick said that the costs should be offset by the income from the charging stations.

Joe requested the Select Board to approve the Vision Committee to take the next step of allowing ECRE to determine the possible locations for the charging stations and submit that information to

National Grid for approval. This step does not cost the Town any money and would not be a binding commitment to proceed with the program. Once the locations have been determined, the committee would request approval by the Select Board for the Town to enter into a contract and proceed with the program. There will be no cost for installation and could allow for increase foot traffic for the downtown businesses.

Joe stated there is no cost or commitment for the Town to allow for the next step to explore which locations would work best. The Board agreed to allow the Vision Committee to proceed.

Select Board Speak

Andy Krouss reminded everyone that this Saturday, August 10th is the Zucchini Festival in downtown area and he hopes everyone gets the opportunity to attend.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to adjourn at 6:46 PM.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2024**

Quorum present: Select Board Members; Andrew Krouss, Kathleen Keresey, and Chair Andrew Potter, and Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Andy Potter opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. He then stated that the agenda item to review the draft Zoning Bylaws proposed by the Planning Board would be discussed at a future meeting due to changes in the State laws that need to be considered.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from July 29, 2024. All were in favor, minutes approved.

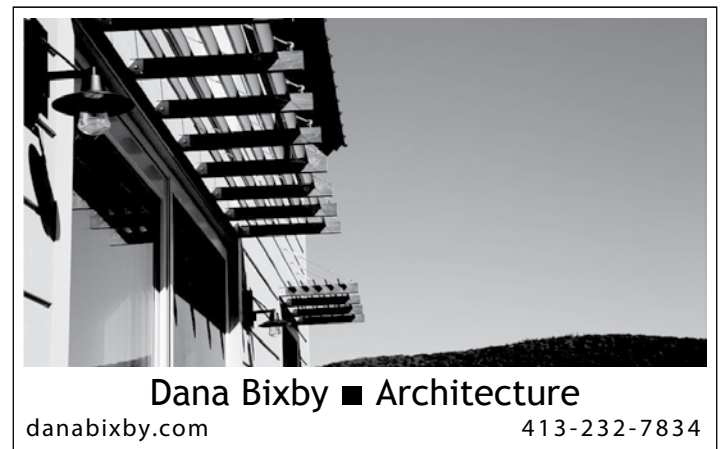
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Citizen Speak:

Joanna Yurman, Baker Street resident, urged the Board to continue to consider the effects of the Wiseacre Farm odors on the neighbors. She hopes the Board will stay on top of the issue to mitigate the odor.

Gary Quadrozzi, Cross Road resident, again reminded the Board that the Wiseacre Farm representatives stated there would be an online system or an app set up to report any odor issues however, he is unsure if it has been implanted as promised.

Several Wiseacre Farm employees also spoke in support of Wiseacre Farm and the support it gives the community and the families that work there.

Rene McCormick, Lenox Road resident, had concerns with the draft proposed zoning bylaw for short term rentals. She had questions on the process to determine if the owner of a home is a resident as well as urging the Board to look at the zoning for short term rentals in neighboring Towns for consistency.

Town Administrator Update- Marie Ryan

Marie informed the Board that she, Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works, and Joe Roy, Jr. have completed a review of 4 possible locations for EV charging stations. The locations are at the parking lot at the old Town Hall on Main Street, near the public restrooms on Moscow Road, the parking lot at Card Pond and the Town Hall. Once National Grid has reviewed and approved the proposed locations, Joe will return to the Board with recommendations on the next steps and Select Board approval to proceed.

Marie stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee will have a new gazebo installed at Town Hall this fall and another one installed at Card Pond in the spring.

At this time, Andy Potter noted the Board will proceed with the discussion about Wiseacre Farm odor mitigation.

Wiseacre Farm Odor Mitigation Discussion

Andy Potter explained that the purpose of this agenda item is to discuss the Host Community Agreement in regard to odor mitigation. The parties involved need to discuss what is considered reasonable and how to mitigate the odor to the Board's satisfaction. He was upset that Wiseacre Attorney Aaron DuBois sent docu-

ments for the Board to review only a few short hours prior to the meeting and hopes that will not happen again in the future.

Andy requested that there be a special meeting with Wiseacre Farm that will include Byers Scientific as well as Tech Environmental. Kathleen and Andy Krouss agreed that is how they would like to proceed as well.

Wiseacre Attorney Aaron Dubois apologized for the short notice when sending their documents. He stated that Wiseacre has been working very hard and spending a lot of money in an effort to mitigate odor. Wiseacre is working hard to respect their neighbors and feel that some of the complaints are not valid. Aaron also stated that Wiseacre has included several of the suggestions by Tech Environmental, however, at the same time they feel that some of the suggestions were not practical for the odor mitigation at Wiseacre.

Aaron informed the audience that Wiseacre has their online reporting system and app for odor issues up and running and hopes that the residents and neighbors use this to assist Wiseacre for data collection that will improve odor mitigation.

The next step for the Board will be to hold a special meeting with Wiseacre, Tech Environmental and Byers Scientific in the near future.

ARPA Funds Remaining – Andy Potter

Andy noted that at the last Affordable Housing Trust Committee meeting, the Committee voted to request the Select Board approve the remaining ARPA funds be transferred into an account for the Affordable Housing Trust to use as seed money. Andy has requested Town Counsel to assist the Town in creating a Trust for the Committee to begin work on housing in Town.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to transfer any remaining ARPA funds to an account for the Affordable Housing Trust Committee.


All were in favor, motion approved.

Select Board Speak

Andy Krouss noted that the Zucchini Festival went very well and everyone had a great time. He thanked everyone who attended.

Kathleen thanked all the volunteers for all their hard work to run a great Zucchini Festival this year.

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...continued from page 6

Kathleen shared her concern about the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) approval of the Housatonic Water Works agreement. She would like the residents to know that the Board did not agree with this approval.

Kathleen stated that previously she has worked with Director of Public Works Curt Wilton on an inventory of all the Massachusetts DOT signs around Town. She would like the Board to allow her to continue to work with Curt to have the State remove all the old broken signs and replace them. The Board agreed.

Andy Potter enjoyed the Zucchini Festival as well and thanked all the volunteers for a terrific job. He also mentioned that recently the Great Barrington Select Board has decided to appeal the DPU approval of the Housatonic Water Company agreement and that our Board should also do the same. The Board agreed to meet with Town Counsel to get the appeal process started.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to adjourn at 6:53 PM.

All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Y. Ryan
Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2024**

Quorum present: Select Board Members; Andrew Krouss, Kathleen Keresey (Remote Participation), and Chair Andrew Potter, and Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Andy Potter opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the minutes from August 12, 2024. All were in favor, minutes approved.

Citizen Speak: None

Town Administrator Update- Marie Ryan

Marie informed the Board that Director of Public Works Curt Wilton held a Bid Opening this morning for the paving project on Lenox Road and Deer Hill Road. DelSignore was the winning bid which was \$100,000 lower than budgeted for this project. The project will begin in the fall.

Police Department Update: Chief Marc Portieri

Chief Portieri updated the Board with the Department statistics since January 1, 2024:

33 Criminal Complaints	24 Arrests
466 Motor Vehicle Stops	118 Citations
13 Accidents	

The Department has uploaded data from the flashing speed sign on Route 41. The data includes two years' worth of traffic his-

tory which totaled over 700,000 vehicles travelling on the road. He stated that only 4% of the vehicles would have been stopped for speeding. Now that the Department has been able to collect the data easily, they will begin uploading the data every two months. This data will allow for the Officers to monitor different locations during times when traffic violations are happening the most often.

Other updates from the Chief included:

- everything went well at the Zucchini Festival with minimal parking issues
- school is starting and the officers will begin following the school buses in the morning
- the new Police vehicle will be delivered this week
- newly hired Officer James Ryan has made a huge impact already with many traffic stops in a short period of time.
- the Department has been very busy with ongoing investigations

Josh Billings Runaround: Lou Oggiani

Lou Oggiani requested permission from the Select Board for the Josh Billings Runaround to have access to Town roads for all bikers to race through West Stockbridge on September 15. They will work with the Police Department to set up an action plan and will require 6 police officers for assistance that day. The bikers will begin riding through West Stockbridge around 10:30 AM. Chief Portieri is working with Lou on police coverage.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen to approve use of the roads in West Stockbridge for the Josh Billings Runaround on September 15.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Emergency Management Plan:

Andy Potter explained that the Town's Emergency Management Plan was created and approved in 2021 and would like it to be reviewed and updated. He would like the plan to include updated MEMA requirements and any other updates that may need to be completed.

Lou Oggiani, Emergency Management Director, stated that he has reviewed the document and he feels it is still up to date but he will work with Marie, Police Chief Portieri and Director of Public Works Curt Wilton to do a full review of the Plan and update it as needed. He suggested the group get together possibly two to three times per year to continue to update and review the Plan.

Select Board Speak: None

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to adjourn at 6:44 PM.

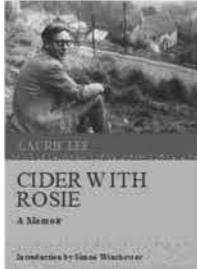
All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Y. Ryan
Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

SIMON WINCHESTER

at the Old Town Hall

Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 7 p.m.



The celebrated bestselling author will talk about the beloved English classic *Cider with Rosie* and his Introduction to the just published new edition



Photo: Setsuko Winchester

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Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. 10 am–3 pm | Tues. and Fri. 2–6 pm | Sun. Closed

Hello from the library, and welcome to the fun month of October. We hope all is magical for you!

Stay tuned for a book sale being organized by our very own power volunteer, Francesca. So far, we know it will be held during the weekend of October 12 to 14, outside the library, in what we hope will be beautiful fall weather. Come on over and take a look at three interesting collections of books!

Here are our monthly lending and borrowing statistics for the month of August:

- 922 items borrowed and renewed
- 336 eBooks and streaming audiobooks borrowed
- Library users saved \$16,109 by borrowing instead of buying
- 521 library visitors

We thank the ever-creative Miss Vicky for running another wonderful summer program. Children visiting the library enjoyed completing several different Library Bingo challenges to win charms they could put on their Crocs or bracelets. There was also our weekly challenge to find a stuffy of Rika the Dog, hidden somewhere in the library.

We look forward to seeing you soon! Vicky, Rachel, Sarah, and Francesca

NEW ADULT FICTION

- Aitken, *Bright I burn*
- Barton, *Talking to strangers*
- Ciccarone, *Borough features*
- Cleeves, *Dark wives*
- Cox, *Between the sound and sea*
- Krueger, *Spirit crossing*
- Kushner, *Creation Lake*
- Kwan, *Lies and weddings*
- McFadden, *The housemaid is watching*
- Picoult, *By any other name*
- Ribay, *Everything we never had*
- Robb, *Passions in death*
- Shafak, *There are rivers in the sky*
- Slaughter, *This is why we lied*
- Strout, *Tell me everything*
- Sutanto, *You will never be me*
- Thor, *Shadow of doubt*

NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- Kanata, *Chi's sweet adventures 1*
- Johnson, *Adventure in Grand Canyon National Park*
- Johnson, *Danger in Zion National Park*
- Johnson, *Discovery in Great Sand Dunes National Park*
- Johnson, *Mystery in Rocky Mountain National Park*
- Wang, *Ash's cabin*
- Wang, *Magic ramen: the story of Momofuku Ando*
- Warga, *Strange thing happened in Cherry Hall*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

- Clarke, *The story of a heart: two families, one heart*
- DiResta, *Invisible rulers: the people who turn lies into reality*
- Jackson, *Lovely one: a memoir*
- Senna, *Colored television*
- Tan, *The backyard bird chronicles*

NEW DVDs: *The fall guy; Furiosa: a Mad Max saga; The Garfield movie*



Scrapbook Questions/created by Paula Farrell TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. Who was the Berkshire district attorney who lives in West Stockbridge and prosecuted three defendants for a triple murder in 2014?
2. In 1979 and 2014, this musician played with the BSO on its history-making tours of China. Who was he?
3. What restaurant closed its doors on September 8, 2014?
4. Two West Stockbridge Highway Department employees won the first-place title of "Massachusetts Highway Association 2014 Snow Plow Rodeo Champions." Who were they?

1. David Capelles
2. Gerald Elias
3. Nook & Cranny
4. John Lyford and Jamie Boyer



This program is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Berkshire Hills Regional School District Announces New Administrative Team

By Peter Dillon, BHRSD Superintendent

Our July 25 School Committee meeting was electric as we met our new administrative team. I urge you to watch part of the meeting on CTSB (<https://ctsbv.org/education-channel-1302/>) and meet our new leaders. We introduced three new principals and one assistant principal.

Cynthia Carey: Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School's New Principal

Cynthia previously worked as Muddy Brook's assistant principal and as an assessment coordinator, math coach, and teacher in the Pittsfield schools. She completed a master's in education at MCLA and a bachelor's degree from Rollins College.

"We're excited for Cynthia to join us in this new role. She has context to listen to and support students, families, and staff in developing and growing as learners and people."

Cynthias shared, "I'm thrilled to have been offered the position. I look forward to continuing the good work we've been doing at Muddy Brook. I also hope to take this opportunity to work with the staff and the community to improve in areas where we could be doing better. Muddy Brook is a wonderful school with a fabulous staff and a diverse, vibrant community; I couldn't be happier to have the privilege to be their principal."

Betsy D'Agostino: Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School's New Assistant Principal

Betsy worked in the North Adams school district as a fourth-grade teacher at Greylock Elementary School teaching ELA and Social Studies for the past seven years creating safe, rigorous, and supportive environments for her students. She served on the Social and Emotional Leadership team, the Instructional Leadership team, and PBIS team, as well as serving as a PLC team facilitator for the school. She also served on the district's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice team where she was responsible for leading and training all three elementary schools for the district.

Previously Betsy worked at Pittsfield's Herberg Middle School as Behavior Specialist, Case Manager, and Special Education Teacher for grades 6 through 8.

She earned a bachelor's degree at then North Adams State College, a master's degree from American International College, and is a graduate of the Leadership Academy at MCLA.

Betsy is excited to share her student-centered approach to teaching and her commitment to building strong and lasting relationships with her students. She exhibits a genuine passion for fostering an inclusive and equitable learning environment. Betsy has an unwavering ability to go above and beyond to ensure that every student in her care receives the attention and guidance needed for their academic and personal growth. Lastly, she shares her ability to foster strong relationships with teachers, families, administrators, and community organizations in the service of supporting all students.

Jake McCandless: Du Bois Regional Middle School's New Principal

Jake previously worked as a superintendent in the Mount Greylock, Pittsfield, and Lee school districts. He was the principal of Lee Middle and High School and an assistant principal and teacher in Virginia.

Jake earned a bachelor's degree at Grove City College, a master's degree from the University of Virginia, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Boston College.

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He is committed to continue to serve students, families, and the educators and community who make school happen for the students in the Berkshire Hills Regional School District. "I am very honored to serve the communities that comprise the BHRSD and to work in a school where great things happen every day for young people in the middle grades."

Superintendent Dillon shared, "Every so often the stars align. We are so happy with Jake joining our team. His deep commitment to supporting every student and valuing all members of the school community will serve us well. His commitment to excellence and rigor will help us engage all learners."

Christopher Barnes: Monument Mountain Regional High School's New Principal

Chris served as principal at Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Regional School, associate principal at Mount Anthony Union High School, principal of Arlington Middle/High School, and acting principal and assistant principal of Mount Greylock Regional High School. He was also a staff developer, assistant principal, and teacher in Baltimore.

He has a BA in English literature from Western Washington University, a master's in curriculum and instruction from McDaniel College, and Administration and Supervision Certification from Loyola University, Maryland.

"I feel very fortunate to be coming on board at this time. The school has a great history and strong traditions, and it is my intention to begin building relationships with students, staff, and community members right away. I have an open-door policy, and I welcome conversations with all of our constituents. I will be working with Superintendent Dillon and the school leadership, which includes the administration and many teachers, to further understand where we are and how we want to move forward. I am very passionate about this work. I love working with students, as they bring immeasurable life and energy to our work; I am excited to meet them, to hear their concerns and ideas, and to build upon the school they love. I plan on reaching out to the community members as soon as I begin, and I welcome them into the school, so that we may begin to get to know each other and to start our work together."

Dillon says of Chris, "He impressed us as thoughtful, collaborative, and innovative. He cares deeply about including all voices. We look forward to his impact on our learning community."

We're excited to welcome this new team and to be planning together for the new school year.

Please reach out to me at peter.dillon@bhrsd.org if you have any questions, and continue to join our School Committee and other meetings.

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HIGH-HOLY-DAY JEWS
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A Soaring Performance of Messiaen's Masterpiece by the Ensemble Chamarré

By Liza Bennett



Quartet for the End of Time was written by Olivier Messiaen, a deeply religious Frenchman facing a crisis while being held at a German POW camp during World War II. It was performed for the first time by the composer and three fellow prisoners on inferior instruments before an audience of German officers and POWs in unheated barracks on a painfully cold night in 1941. This powerful and deeply moving piece was performed again on a balmy September evening by the Ensemble Chamarré to an appreciative audience in the beautiful West Stockbridge Congregational Church. The Ensemble Chamarré, which has toured with this extraordinary work worldwide, featured Catherine Hudgins, clarinet; Katie Wolfe, violin; William Rounds, cello; and Vytas J. Baksys, piano.

"The *Quartet for the End of Time* might sound like a piece that is full of gloom and doom," Hudgins explained in her opening remarks, "but it is really about eternity." She went on to eloquently describe how the work was inspired by the Book of Revelation and is filled with musical images of birdsong, angels, stars, and the aurora borealis. At the same time, the quartet embodies the extreme conditions of the camp and the emotions and struggles of the body and soul of the composer. With consummate skill that seemed to embody both Messiaen's deep anguish and soaring spiritual power, the ensemble played the work's eight mesmerizing movements, ending in a slow, musical ascent into Messiaen's paradise.

"Please don't applaud right away when we're finished," Hudgins requested before the performance. "Let us all just sit in silence for a while. Silence is the real music of eternity." Hudgins' request was honored, but when the applause finally came, it rose to the church's rafters as the audience gave the Ensemble Chamarré a standing ovation.

Catherine Hudgins introduced the Quartet for the End of Time. Photo by Carol Kuller



The Ensemble Chamarré featured Catherine Hudgins, clarinet; Katie Wolfe, violin; William Rounds, cello; and Vytas J. Baksys, piano. Photo by Bob Salerno

Parks & Recreation Seeking Volunteers

West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation is looking for residents who would be willing to be added to an “Open to Being a Volunteer” list.

Are you sometimes interested in helping with town events? Do you occasionally like setting up for a party? Might you be willing to pick up donuts or stuff candy into bags when needed? If so, this list is for you!

No commitment necessary, just a willingness to be contacted when we might need an extra hand and see if you’re available. Email weststockbridgeparks@gmail.com or speak with a Parks & Rec member to sign up!



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Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY. We couldn’t do it without your support! Keep the *Local Yokel* coming. Please send your gift today!
 (See response form on page 21.)

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

The Stockbridge Grange Dinner is on Sunday, October 13, with a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. Dinner entrée: roast pork; dessert: choice of apple or chocolate pie. Cost: \$15. PLEASE ORDER BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. Pickup time is 12 to 1:30 pm.

Council on Aging

The Richmond/West Stockbridge COA Craft Group will meet in the Richmond Library history room at 9:30 am on Tuesday, October 1. We will be making Spooky with Bows. Preregister to reserve your space and materials by calling Heather at Richmond Town Hall, (413) 553-7793. The class is free to residents of Richmond and West Stockbridge. It’s a fun time—hope to see you there!



The Knitters Group

The Knitters Group meets every Wednesday from 2 to 4 pm in the Community Room at the Town Offices. All crafts are welcome.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library Committee meets every second Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 pm in the Community Room at the Town Offices. All are welcome.

Please send your notices for Community News & Events to the Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, email info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit thelocalyokel.org.



**Watch for the
Zucchini Festival
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Page
in the November
Local Yokel!**

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Bear Witness

By Gerald Elias

We bought our house in West Stockbridge in the fall of 1976. The next spring, as a surprise birthday present for my wife, Cecily, who at the time worked in Boston during the week, I had Don Ward of Ward's Nursery in Great Barrington deliver an apple tree and a pear tree and plant them just outside our living room windows.

We didn't care that much about how lush a crop we'd have, which was a good thing because neither tree was a substantial bearer. And since we didn't spray the trees, what fruit we got we graciously shared with worms. We did manage to make ample jars of applesauce, but mostly the trees provided ideal summer climbing fun for our two future children who were born in the '80s. For the past many years, though, the trees didn't bear fruit at all, maybe the result of the diminishing bee population or late frosts. Or maybe they just didn't feel like it.

But this year, out of the blue, we had crops on both trees that you wouldn't believe. There were so many pears that big branches were bent down to the ground from the weight of the fruit. Maybe there had been more bees pollinating the blossoms. Maybe there had been no late frosts. Maybe there was a plus side to global warming. Whatever the cause, it was a miracle!

But as the saying goes, every silver lining has a cloud. Or something like that. No sooner had we started to admire the fruit of our labors (literally), in mid-July we woke one morning to find that one of the apple limbs had torn right off the trunk. We speculated that it might have been due to rot or a storm, but that was wishful thinking. We knew better, especially when it happened a second and a third time. The massive claw marks on the branches were a dead giveaway.

It had been my intent to cut up the downed branches and toss them over the side of our hill. But in early August we looked out the living room window, and to our chagrin, there was a large black bear (300 lbs. give or take, in my estimation) lying on the ground, contentedly engorging itself with apples. There was no way I was going to get close to that tree as long as Big Ursula considered it her personal picnic area.

I would have been happy to let the bear do its thing for the duration and just stay vigilant. But the thing was, we had three little grandchildren who were coming to visit in mid-August. Even though they say that black bears aren't aggressive, when they're on *your* lawn feasting on *your* fruit trees but believe it's *their* lawn and *their* fruit trees . . . well, you get the gist. Something had to be done.

Three days later we had the trees cut down and removed, fruit and all. We enjoyed them for 47 years but breathed a lot easier once they were gone. After that, we had only one more bear sighting the rest of the summer, and it was some distance away, skirting the edge of the woods. As it lumbered along, by the confused look on its face, I had the distinct feeling it was saying, "Where the heck did those fruit trees go? I know they're around here somewhere."

You can enjoy more of Jerry's writing at www.mysteriesandmusic.com.




"Big Ursula." Photo courtesy of Gerald Elias

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ON THE FOUNDRY GREEN



Our last market is Thursday, October 3

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The Foundry for the generous use of The Green,
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WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL!

See you next year!



The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please mail submissions to: **The Local Yokel**, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, email info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: **John Parker**, 394-4368, john.j.parker53@gmail.com; **Vicki Grayson**, 232-6131, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com; **Susan Fisher**, 232-4443, suefish12@gmail.com; **Anne Lesser**, 717-0277, anne@annelessercommunications.com; Designer: **Kim Bradway**, kim@bloominarts.com.

The *Local Yokel* is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



October 2024 News

By Margie Skaggs

October in Art on Main Gallery continues with a group show through October 6: **"Works in Cold Wax"** by 12 guild artists, curated by Carolyn Abrams.

All shows run Thursdays to Sundays, 11 am to 4 pm (additional dates/times on occasion)

October 10 to November 3

"ab-strac-tion" – Through Media, Process, and Symbol

By Karen Dolmanisth, Virginia Bradley, and Chris Malcomson

Reception: Saturday, October 12, 2–4 pm

Artist Talk: Saturday, October 26, 2 pm

Karen Dolmanisth creates installations and experiential environments through a wide variety of art disciplines: painting, sculpture, drawing, video, photography, and interdisciplinary performative work. Her art is often about the process as well as the outcome, which she offers to the viewer by illuminating cycles of change, transformation, and, ultimately, integration.

Virginia Bradley says, "The alchemical and physical processes of painting are the foundation of my creative practice." By using diverse materials and physical acts, like an alchemist, she transforms the work and then adds and subtracts into the painting surface by pouring paint, sanding, drawing, and printing while simultaneously experimenting with chemical reactions to the surface.

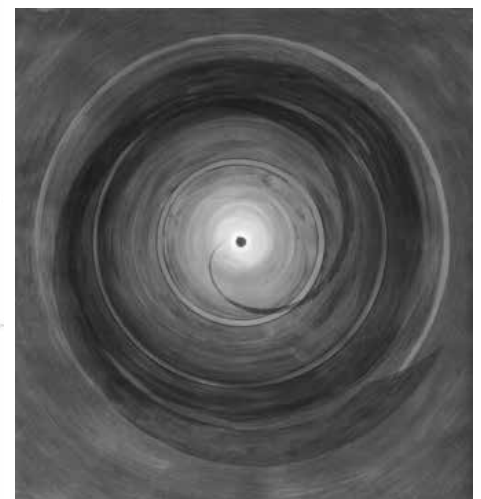
Chris Malcomson's abstract paintings are often portals inviting the viewer to explore other layers of consciousness. His work normally evolves through words, drawings, symbols, and color. The works in this show present a fixed circular form that allows him to concentrate on a unique element of color in each work.



*Karen Dolmanisth, "Lunar Vessel,"
Glazed wood-fired ceramic*



*Virginia Bradley, "Corallium 36,"
Oil on film*



*Chris Malcomson, "Signs 22,"
Oil on paper*

Images courtesy of the artists

History Quiz Answer:

Like many historical curiosities, one question leads to another. The name Albany Road, also known earlier as Albany Street and later as Route 41, is a mystery. It doesn't go to Albany or even points west. It's the main truck route north to Richmond and even west Pittsfield. To get to Albany or Hudson, you would travel along State Line Road, whose name makes sense because it goes to the State Line. We also have a road once named Pittsfield Street, now Swamp Road. So how or where did Albany Road get its name?



Cobb Family Home. Photo courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society

In the 1794 survey of the town, our roads were remnants of early Indian and Hudson River/Dutch trading paths. The main route from the south county settlements to the west and north ran from Stockbridge Road (Route 102), through Main Street, across the Shaker Mill bridge, and then north along Albany Street. At the town line, it veered west at Baker Street to Cross Road and further on to Canaan. A smaller branch of Albany Street went north to Richmond, but the main path was Baker Street/Cross Road. At that time, Albany Street, as the main route north and west, would have been appropriately named, although the survey map doesn't have names.

Also, in those early days, State Line Road was a small path leading to Crane Lake. Climbing the small hill at Crane Lake Camp and then dealing with the wetlands and streams in State Line was more of a problem than the flat dry path along the more northern Baker Street and Cross Road.

But life was changing. The early Hartford-Albany Turnpike went through town and to the west over State Line Road. In addition, the State Line area was becoming more important. The iron mines along what is now Route 102 were active, and worker housing was being built. State Line Road was also a shorter route west than going north and west along Baker Street. Although we might not think that very important now, it was essential with an oxcart, or horse and wagon, particularly hauling marble or limestone. On the 1831 survey map, Albany Street was named the "Old Country Road to Canaan"; State Line Road was called "Turnpike."

By the 1850s, West Stockbridge was growing and getting better organized. Middle-class merchants, lawyers, and professional workers were building homes along Albany Road. The town roads were being called streets and getting proper names. Swamp Road was Pittsfield Street, Route 102 was Stockbridge Street, and Lenox Street and Great Barrington Street were all formally named.

"Old Country Road to Canaan" was now Albany Street. We don't know why it wasn't called Richmond Street at that time. Route 41 through Richmond to Route 22 didn't exist yet, so maybe Richmond wasn't seen as an important destination. The main Albany traffic was going over State Line Road, but maybe Albany Street was still seen as an Albany route. Baker Street, although shown on the 1855 and 1858 maps, was still a prominent road. The main route west still shows Baker Street and Cross Road in 1873.

By 1904, State Line Road was now the main route west. Albany Street, while not leading to Albany, was the road to Richmond Furnace, the center of their town. Later Albany Street became Albany Road, and Pittsfield Street became Swamp Road.



News from the Pews

By Ed Byrne, St. Patrick Church

96th Birthday Celebration!

Ilene Fitzpatrick, parishioner of St. Patrick's Church in West Stockbridge, celebrated her 96th birthday with friends at St. Ann's Church Family Center.

About 50 New Genesis friends and others from the local community also attended to help celebrate. New Genesis is a non-denominational organization that helps integrate special needs adults living in group homes, as well as those living at home in the community, through events such as scrapbooking, music, and games. The festivities culminated with bagpiper Mary Briton playing Ilene's favorites, and then some others added to the celebration.

Ilene's interests include collecting model trains, musicals, coloring, sending her own homemade greeting cards, and most especially Dunkin Doughnuts coffee.

Happy Birthday, Ilene!



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October Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | BerkshireArtists.org | infoberkshireartists@gmail.com

2024

September 26- October 6, "The Cold Waxers" featuring 10 artists working in Cold Wax. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA. **Reception:** Saturday September 28, 2-4PM

October 9, Monthly Meeting, 4:30-6pm. Featuring demo/talk by Sarah Morrison. Meeting Room of the West Stockbridge Town Hall.

October 10 - November 3, "ab-strac-tion: Through Media, Process and Symbol" featuring Karen Dolmanisth, Virginia Bradley, & Chris Malcomson. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA. **Reception:** Saturday September 14, 2-4PM

October 27, Berkshire Photo Gathering. See web: berkshirephotogathering.com /online-meetings

October 29, Meet the Artist, 3pm. TBD. Link to watch to be shared on website.

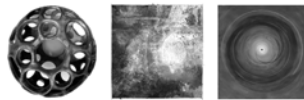
See www.berkshireartists.org for all the in-person and online events offered by the Guild of Berkshire Artists!



The Cold Waxers

S. R. Aiken Pat Hogan
Sue Arkan Elza Karr
Cheryl Binder Marcelene L. Moss
Karen Carmean Amy Pressman
Joni Craker

September 26 - October 6



ab-strac-tion

Through Media, Process and Symbol

Karen Dolmanisth, Virginia Bradley,
& Chris Malcomson

October 10 - November 3

Reception October 12, 2-4
Artist Talk: October 26, 2pm



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Please call John Parker at (413) 394-4368, email info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org for more information.



Every issue costs us about \$1,300 to print and distribute! Please help us keep the **Local Yokel** coming!

With increased printing and postage costs, we need your help more than ever. To get the latest town news, please contribute to the *Local Yokel*. For your donation of at least \$25.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The *Local Yokel* will continue to be available free at selected locations as long as possible, but we hope you will contribute anything you can. The *West Stockbridge Local Yokel, Inc.* is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please check with your employer, or former employer if retired, for matching gift programs.

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Animal Control	<i>John Drake</i>	464-2148		As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1-5 pm; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 am-4 pm, or by appt.
Select Board	<i>Kathleen Keresey Andy Krouss Andy Potter</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	
Town Administrator	<i>Marie Ryan</i>			Mon.-Thurs. 7 am-3 pm Fri. 7-11 am
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Leave Message for Inquiries
Conservation Commission	<i>Kathy Korte</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Steve Traver</i>	911 or 329-7153 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30-9 pm
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Rachel Alter</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. 10 am-3 pm; Tues. and Fri. 2-6 pm; closed Sun.
Police Department	<i>Marc Portieri</i>	911 or 232-8500 (non-emergency)		24 hours, 7 days/week
Post Office	<i>Randy Bates</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 am-7 pm; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.-Fri. 9 am-4:30 pm; Sat. 9 am-12 noon
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30-3:30 pm
Town Collector	<i>Kelli Bradbury</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Tues. 1-5 pm; Wed. 7 am-12 pm; Thurs. 1-6 pm
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Benjamin Gelb</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Tues. 9 am-4 pm
Transfer Station	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 am-6 pm and Sat. 8 am-6 pm
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	212-9206		
Veterans Agency	<i>Tom Beasley</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

Official Town Government Website: weststockbridge-ma.gov · Community and Business Website: visitweststockbridge.com

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024

AT 4:00 PM

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

October Calendar of Events

10/1	Council on Aging Craft Group meeting	9:30 am	Richmond Library History Room
10/1	Planning Board meeting	7 pm	Town Offices
10/2	Rosh Hashana begins at sundown		
10/2	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
10/3	WS Farmers Market: last of the season	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
10/5	WSHS Jazz Series: Natalia Bernal "En Diablada" Quartet	7 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
10/7	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
10/8	Vaccine Clinic	8-10 am	Town Offices
10/9	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
10/9	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room
10/11	Yom Kippur begins at sundown		
10/13	Stockbridge Grange Takeout Dinner		See Community News for details
10/14	Indigenous Peoples' Day		
10/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
10/16	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
10/17	Vaccine Clinic	4-6 pm	Town Offices
10/20	WS Chamber Players' Harvest Concert	4 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
10/21	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
10/23	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
10/24	Shared Fire & EMS Committee	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
10/25	WSHS Jazz Series: Richard Stanmeyer Quintet	7 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
10/30	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
10/31	Halloween:		
	> Trick or Treat	4:30-6:30 pm	Around town
	> Halloween Party	6:30-7:30 pm	Town Offices Gym

Note: Town Offices (including Community Room and Library) are located at 21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge.